



# BERNALILLO COUNTY

## NEW MEXICO



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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### NEW HELICOPTER

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department christened their new \$3.2 million dollar helicopter on October 22nd of this year. Metro-1 is responding to calls within the metropolitan area. The new aircraft is an American Eurocopter A-Star 350 B-3 helicopter. The aircraft is equipped with state of the art avionics, forward looking infrared camera, 30,000,000 candela search light, microwave downlink, rescue hoist, water bucket, and digital recording capabilities.



The aircraft will be utilized for patrol and a wide range of support functions, including mountain search and rescue, firefighting, and Special Weapons and Tactics deployments. The A-Star is a high-performance, utility aircraft that will meet the demands of the Sheriff's Department's multiple missions.

### EDITH BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHASE II GROUNDBREAKING



Bernalillo County Commission Chair Alan B. Armijo, County Manager Thaddeus Lucero and North Valley community members hosted a groundbreaking on Wednesday, November 28, for the Edith Boulevard Reconstruction Phase II Project.

"Approximately 13,000 vehicles travel through Edith Boulevard between Candelaria and Montano," says Commissioner Armijo. "These improvements will create safer driving conditions and help ease congestion. Traffic patterns indicate a 65% increase for 2025."

The total cost of the project is \$17 million and includes the design, construction and right-of way costs. Improvements to Edith will include expanding the roadway to five lanes, installing a storm drain system, and adding new lighting and sidewalks. Improvements to Montano include constructing two additional lanes within the existing median and adding bike lanes.

Edith Boulevard funding is through County Bonds, County impact fees, federal government (\$2,970,000), State severance tax (\$150,000), State GRIPII (\$4,400,000), Water Utility Authority (\$1,200,000), City of Albuquerque (\$130,000 - permit fee contribution). Montano funding is through County Bonds. The design engineer was PB Americas, Inc., and the general contractor is A.S. Horner, Inc., major Construction will begin in January 2008.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY EMPLOYEES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Here Is Just A Sampling Of Just Some Work Bernalillo County Employees Performed in 2007:

719	Miles of Roadway Maintained
80,218	911 Calls
40,000	Inmates Were Booked Into The MDC
16,849	Lane Miles of Snow Removal
279,559	Notices of Value Mailed Out
2,897,250	Millions of Gallons of Water Pumped
7,840	Building Inspections Issued
2,699	Employees Attended Safety Training
40,560	Sheriff's Responses
100,000	Payments Were Issued
\$494	Million Dollars Were Collected and Redistributed to 17 Agencies
3200	Individuals Were Provided Services at MATS
473	Well Permits Issued
12,194	Fire Responses
8,000	Meals Prepared for Inmates
700	Direct Payments Issued
13,687	HR Applications Processed
4,565	Emergency and Medical Responses
52	Parks and Recreation Special Events
400	Probate Cases Handled
3,600	Animals and Livestock Handled
5,000	Purchase Orders Issued
12,000	Work Orders Completed on County Vehicles/Units
42	Parks and Fields Maintained
4400	Marriage Licenses Issued
100	RFPS and 100 RFBS Were Processed
360,000	Registered Voters Records Are Maintained
2,977	Juveniles Were Booked
400	Contracts and Thousands of Credit Card Transactions Processed
1	Triple AAA Bond Rating from Standard and Poors'
6	National Awards Received

## HOLIDAY TIPS FOR PETS

Bernalillo County veterinarian Dr. Andrea Speed can't remember the little dog's name or exactly when it happened but she certainly can remember the pain and suffering he endured. "The puppy was an outdoor dog, maybe five to six months old," Speed says from her office at De Anza Animal Clinic in the South Valley. "He bit into the wires on outdoor Christmas lights. It caused severe burns in his mouth, lips, and gums and across his tongue."

Speed says it was difficult for the dog to eat, "painful to chew and use his tongue to swallow. The only treatment was supportive care--softening his food, keeping his mouth clean and an antibiotic to prevent secondary infections." Luckily, she says, the puppy healed "beautifully." But, some other, less fortunate animals, don't always do so well.

The holidays can be great for humans but a veritable landmine for pets. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, animal clinics can become bombarded with accident related emergencies. Those rich turkey dinners and shiny decorations can result in gastrointestinal problems that cause vomiting, diarrhea, punctured and obstructed digestive tracts, and even death. Animal experts say with so much going on, it's easy for us to forget that little Fido or Fluffy shouldn't be anywhere near tinsel, ribbon, electric cords, or even the garbage.

"Probably the advice I'd like to give is to think about keeping a little closer track of your pets so they have less opportunity to get into trouble," Speed says. "Make sure Christmas decorations and food (and trash) are out of their reach. I'd also suggest for those that like to give their pets gifts, attention is much more valuable to them than anything you'd get at a store."

Other holiday safety no-no's for pets include: alcoholic beverages, angel hair, artificial snow, candles, chocolate, fireplaces/burning wood, fireworks, holly, ivy, mistletoe, pine needles, and poinsettias.

## FIREFIIGHTERS HELP OUT IN CALIFORNIA

Four Bernalillo County firefighters with over 60 years combined experience left town on a cold October 24 morning to help thousands of other firefighters 900 miles away battle California's deadliest blaze in more than a decade. Now back home, Lt. Johnny Walker and firefighters Kevin McClellan, Sean McNatt, and Dakota



Powers say they'd do it again if they had the chance. At least 10 ferocious wildfires in Los Angeles, San Bernadino, San Diego and Ventura counties killed more than a dozen people and sent tens of thousands seeking refuge.

The four, members of the County fire department's wild land team and part of a statewide deployment effort, spent six days near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in Southern California, working 24 hours shifts with only 12 hours off in between.

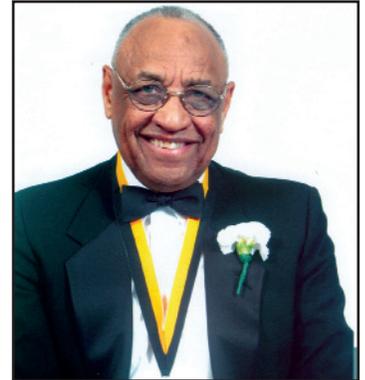
"Our job was to protect structures and reinforce the fire line," says Lt. Walker. "That part of Camp Pendleton had been evacuated-approximately 3500 new recruits-and the fire had burned approximately 10,000 acres. We protected the living quarters for the recruits, local shops and retail stores. We also helped in helicopter water drops to extinguish flare ups."

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## BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMUNITY LIAISON HONORED BY ALMA MATER

Bernalillo County Neighborhood Association Coordinator Lenton Malry, PhD., has been inducted into his alma mater's Alumni Hall of Fame at Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. The ceremony took place on October 26, 2007 in Grambling.



Malry, 67, graduated from GSU in 1952 with a B.S. in elementary education. He later received his Master's degree from Texas College and his PhD., from UNM in Administration.

Malry retired from APS in 1994 after serving 32 years as a teacher and principal. He also served as an adjunct professor of political science for 13 years at UNM. In the political area, Malry served as the first Black elected to the New Mexico State Legislature, the House of Representatives, and the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners.

"I was very surprised and thrilled to have been named to the GSU Alumni Hall of Fame," Malry says. "My life has been dedicated to helping people in the community."

## CLERK NEEDS POLL WORKERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S

County Clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver is already preparing for the 2008 Primary and General Election. "We are anticipating a record number of voters and we are asking members of the public to become a part of the process as poll workers," says the Clerk.

In order to participate, you must be a registered voter and 18 years of age. No experience is necessary, training will be provided and poll workers will be paid. "We are still in need of energetic individuals and I encourage anyone interested to register on-line at [bern-co.gov](http://bern-co.gov)," says Clerk Toulouse Oliver.

## INTERVIEW WITH HOUSING DIRECTOR

Homegrown New Mexican Betty M. Valdez brings a wealth of home mortgage and real estate experience to her new job as Bernalillo County's Housing Director. She began the job in August and oversees a staff of 30 employees and an annual budget of \$12 million. Her goal is to "increase the housing opportunities for more residents in Bernalillo County, not only for the low to very low income individuals but also for workforce individuals, those who earn moderate incomes.



The Bernalillo County Housing Department administers the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's programs that assist people who need help renting or buying homes. It also manages two, low income housing complexes for the elderly and disabled.

"Bernalillo County has approximately 1800 section 8 rent subsidy housing vouchers. We also participate in section 8 programs for homeownership. This allows the section 8 voucher holder to buy a home once they qualify for a loan," Valdez says. "In addition, we offer a lease/purchase program that is not for section 8 voucher holders that allows 'workforce' individuals or families to lease a home from the Bernalillo County Housing Department for up to three years while they save for a down payment, repair their credit or pay off debt."

Valdez has worked in the housing industry for 30 years. Before joining the County, she was the Senior Deputy Director for the Fannie Mae New Mexico Community Business Center and was a Vice President for Bank of America's Mortgage Company. She is also a member of the Home Builders of Central New Mexico, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce, and New Mexico Mortgage Lenders. She and her husband, Tom Valdez, have two children and two grandchildren.

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## CONSERVE TO PRESERVE



### GET A FREE TOILET

You can Conserve to Preserve by participating in the Bernalillo County High Efficiency Toilet Retro-fit Program. Just call 848-1500 to sign up for a Home Water Conservation Survey. Your home will be evaluated for ways to save water and you'll receive free low-flow showerheads and aerators. Best of all, you may qualify to receive up to two free high-efficiency (1.28 gallons per flush) toilets! Visit our website at [www.bernco.gov/water](http://www.bernco.gov/water) for more information.

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For more information visit our website at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov) or  
call Lenton Malry, Neighborhood Association Coordinator at 768-4364